

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Patent Application of: Asahok K. Shukla, et.al.

Serial No. 09/591,009

Art Unit: 1723

Filing Date: 06/09/0

Examiner: THERKORN, E

Title: INCISION-BASED FILTRATION/SEPARATION PIPETTE TIP

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Patent and Trade Mark Office
Washington DC 20231

Date: April 4, 2002

AMENDMENTS

In response to communication mailed on 01/04/02 and interview with the examiner On 01/24/02, as discussed with examiner, the following changes are made.

A Markup and a Clean copy of amended claims is attached.

Please delete following claims:

3, 6, 12, 17, 18, and 19.

We have made changes in our application and narrowed down claim 1 as suggested by examiner during the interview, to overcome the US patent No. 6,190,559. As Valaskovic (Column 2, line 4-7) teaches, a filling of packing material in slurry form in a column by capillary action, then removing the solvent by evaporation and then optionally sintering the end to hold the packing material inside the capillary column. The end from which the column material (slurry) was loaded has to be sintered because the column material will otherwise flow out with the sample or the solvent and will not stay in the column. In our pipette tip, we load the solution into the tip using a pipette or a syringe and the packing material does not flow out of the column because the end of column from which the solution or sample is loaded (or aspirated) has a very small slit such that the chromatographic particles cannot pass through it but the

Official
FAX RECEIVED
APR 4 2002
GROUP 1700